

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer-based information search method comprising:
2 receiving at least a search query, said search query comprising at least one term;
3 receiving a network resource list, said list comprising at least one web site selected from a
4 predetermined web site list;
5 semantically analyzing said search query; and
6 searching said network resource list for a response to said search query using a search engine.
- 1 2. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, wherein said search query
2 comprises at least one sentence.
- 1 3. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, wherein said search query
2 comprises at least one paragraph having at least two sentences.
- 1 4. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving at least one search query, said search query being conducted by said search engine at a
3 pre-scheduled time.
- 1 5. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 web site list is categorized by technologies.
- 1 6. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 translating said search query into at least one language used by said search engine, said at least
3 one language being different from a language in which said search query is written.
- 1 7. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving search results from a search engine; and
3 prioritizing the search result by an attribute selected by a user.
- 1 8. The computer-based information search method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving search results from a search engine; and

producing a summary report of at least one item of said search result selected by a user.

9. A computer-implemented system for information search, comprising:
means for receiving at least a search query, said search query comprising at least one term;
means for receiving a network resource list, said list comprising at least one web site selected from a predetermined web site list;
means for semantically analyzing said search query; and
means for searching said network resource list for a response to said search query using a search engine.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said search query comprises at least one paragraph having at least two sentences.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein said search query is conducted by said search engine at a pre-scheduled time.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein said predetermined web site list is categorized by technologies.

13. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
means for translating said search query into at least one language used by said search engine, said at least one language being different from a language in which said search query is written.

14. A computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of information search, comprising the steps of:
receiving at least a search query, said search query comprising at least one term;
receiving a network resource list, said list comprising at least one web site selected from a predetermined web site list;
semantically analyzing said search query; and
searching said network resource list for a response to said search query using a search engine.

1 15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein said search query comprises at least
2 one paragraph having at least two sentences.

1 16. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein said search query is conducted by
2 said search engine at a pre-scheduled time.

1 17. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein said predetermined web site list is
2 categorized by technologies.

1 18. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises
2 translating said search query into at least one language used by said search engine, said at least
3 one language being different from a language in which said search query is written.

1 19. A computer-based citation search method comprising:
2 receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification
3 condition;
4 receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
5 searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or
6 is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query; and
7 producing a citation list, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference
8 patent.

1 20. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein said patent
2 identification condition is that patents found by said query are owned by an employer of a user.

1 21. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, further comprising:
2 translating information used for producing said citation list of said reference patent.

1 22. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, further comprising:
2 generating a notice to a predetermined person when said owner of said first tier reference patent
3 matches a predetermined entity.

1 23. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein said search query
2 contains a name of an entity, the method further comprising:
3 automatically using at least one additional name for searching, said at least one additional name
4 associated with said name of said entity.

1 24. The computer-based citation search method of claim 23, wherein said at least one
2 additional name is obtained by referring to an entity names table, said table containing at least
3 one additional name of said entity.

1 25. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein the citation list
2 identifies two patents as being commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the two
3 patents specifies a different name of assignee.

1 26. The computer-based citation search method of claim 25, further comprising:
2 referring to an entity names table to identify two patents that specify different names of assignee
3 as being commonly owned by said single entity, said table containing at least one additional
4 name of said entity.

1 27. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein said first tier reference
2 patent cites patents satisfying said condition of said search query, further comprising:
3 searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one second tier reference patent that cites
4 said first tier reference patent; and
5 producing a second tier citation list, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said second
6 tier reference patent.

1 28. The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein said first tier reference
2 patent is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query, further comprising:
3 searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one second tier reference patent that is
4 cited by said first tier reference patent; and
5 producing a second tier citation list, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said second
6 tier reference patent.

1 29. A computer-based citation search method comprising:
2 receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification
3 condition;
4 receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity;
5 receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
6 searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth
7 in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said watch list;
8 searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents;
9 and
10 generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a
11 predetermined entity.

1 30. A computer-implemented system for citation search comprising:
2 means for receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent
3 identification condition;
4 means for receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
5 means for searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent
6 that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query; and
7 means for producing a citation list, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said first tier
8 reference patent.

1 31. The system of claim 30, further comprising:
2 means for generating a notice to a predetermined person when said owner of said first tier
3 reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

1 32. The system of claim 30, wherein said search query contains a name of an entity, the
2 system further comprising:
3 means for automatically using at least one additional name for searching, said at least one
4 additional name associated with said name of said entity.

1 33. The system of claim 30, wherein the citation list identifies two patents as being
2 commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the two patents specifies a different name
3 of assignee.

1 34. A computer-implemented system for citation search comprising:
2 means for receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent
3 identification condition;
4 means for receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity;
5 means for receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
6 means for searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition
7 set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said
8 watch list;
9 means for searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by
10 target patents; and
11 means for generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent
12 matches a predetermined entity.

1 35. A computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer
2 program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of citation search,
3 comprising the steps of:
4 receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification
5 condition;
6 receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
7 searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or
8 is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query; and
9 producing a citation list, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference
10 patent.

1 36. The computer readable medium of claim 35, the method further comprising:

generating a notice to a predetermined person when said owner of said first tier reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein said search query contains a name of an entity, the method further comprising:
automatically using at least one additional name for searching, said at least one additional name associated with said name of said entity.

38. The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the citation list identifies two patents as being commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the two patents specifies a different name of assignee.

39. A computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of citation search, comprising the steps of:
receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition;
receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity;
receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said watch list;
searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents;
and
generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.